

GOING TO A RESTART ?

**Do not let the
Unemployment
Benefit Office or
Restart staff see you
using this leaflet.**

HOW TO ANSWER THE RESTART INTERVIEW FORM

(Employment interview form - UB671R)

The Restart interview and form is designed to force the unemployed off the unemployment register and into cheap labour schemes and low paid jobs.

How To Answer The Questions

Points to remember :

- *It is important to take someone with you to this interview - contact us or take a friend.*
- *Make sure you read the notes provided with the form.*
- *Think carefully before writing your answers down - this advice leaflet is for guidance only - do not simply copy the answers down. If you give "standard" answers you may be asked to fill in a fresh form.*
- *Keep a record of your answers.*
- *From time to time the Department of Employment makes changes in its forms and in the questions asked.*

JOB OFFERS

It is possible you will be invited to apply for certain jobs when you attend a Restart interview... If you are offered jobs which you do not want, if you turn them all down flat they could question your 'availability', putting your benefit at risk. However it is easy to write things on an application form, or say things at a job interview, that will ensure that you won't get the job! We must stress we do not encourage claimants to take up low paid or unsuitable jobs - our suggested answers below are designed purely to stop you losing benefit.

Don't let Restart force you into something you don't want. Always go accompanied by a friend or adviser. You can contact the addresses at the back - please give us as much notice as possible.

The Restart interviewer should not object to someone being with you in the actual interview. This is your right. If they do object - insist on your friend being present. And let us know.

In the interview it's best to take the initiative. Don't wait for the interviewer to ask you questions - prepare what you are going to say and tell them at the start of the interview. We can help you with advice beforehand.

If your benefit is suspended for failure to attend a Restart interview, or following a Restart interview, you should appeal immediately against the decision and make a fresh claim - and seek advice.

Questions 1 - 5 are relatively straightforward, asking about your previous employment and your qualifications/experience.

Q.6 Since you became unemployed, have you been on a training course or taken part in any of the Government programmes to help unemployed people (such as Job Club)?

Answer: *If you have been on a course of any kind, put it down.*

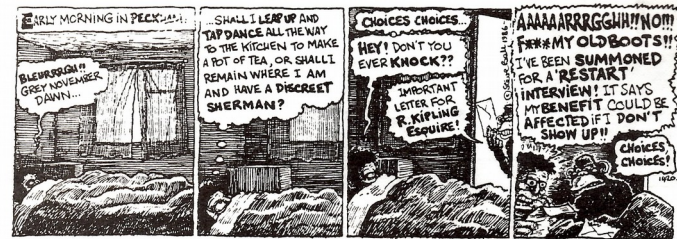
Q.7 What job, or jobs, are you now looking for?
Answer: *Enter the kind of job you would normally do, or the type of job you would like and are able to do. The job should be available in your area and you should be capable of doing it with your present qualifications/experience.*

Q.8 What other jobs would you consider?
Answer: *Anything that fits in with my experience, skills (and qualifications - if you have any).*

Q.9 In which areas are you looking for work? (Say which town or district)
Answer: *Reasonable daily travelling distance. (They consider an hour each way to be reasonable.)*

Q.10 Which other areas are you prepared to travel to?
Answer: *Reasonable daily travelling distance.*

Q.11 When could you start work?
Answer: *Immediately.*



How To Answer The Questions

Q.12 If you cannot start work immediately, please say why.

Answer: *Leave blank*

Q.13 Do you have any adults or children to care for during the hours you are available for work?

Answer: *If your answer is yes, you have to answer Q's.14 and 15.*

Q.14 What arrangements can you make for their care if you get a job?

Answer: *You have to say you can make arrangements within 24 hours - leaving the kids with a neighbour or relative. Make sure you don't use anybody's name who is claiming benefit - otherwise their availability for work could be in doubt. Warn the person whose name you are using.*

Q.15 How soon after being asked to start work could you make those arrangements?

Answer: *Enter Immediately or Right away.*

Q.16 Are you looking only for a temporary job?

Answer: *Tick No.*

Q.17 Are you looking only for part-time work?

Answer: *No.*

Q.18 What hours can you work on the following days?

Answer: *Put down 8am -5.30pm Monday to Saturday -but if any of the jobs you are looking for might involve shifts put Any hours Monday to Saturday.*

Q.19 What is the lowest weekly wage or salary (before stoppages) you are willing to work for?

Answer: *Put a slightly lower amount than your last wage, for example £5 or £10 less. If you have never worked before, seek advice.*

Q.20 Does your health limit the work you can do?

Q.21 What limits does your health place on the work you can do?

Answer: *Complete this if you are registered disabled or have a long term health or injury problem. Do not put yourself in a position whereby you are forced to take work that is bad for your health. You cannot be required to work in an environment or occupation which will cause further damage to your health.*

Q.22 Are you registered with the job centre as a disabled person? (Do you have a Green card?).

Q.23 Is the Disablement Resettlement Officer (DRO) giving you help to find work?

Q.24 Are you getting extra help to find work from any one else at the Jobcentre because of your health problem or disability.

Answer: *If your health is a problem you can register with the Disablement Resettlement Officer who can give you specialised advice. This is voluntary but can be helpful in certain situation. In some cases people may be put on a different benefit, eg sickness benefit.*

Q.25 Please give details of what you have done to find work in the last four weeks. For example, attach your jobsearch record and evidence of applying for jobs. Give details of your interviews with employers.

Answer: *You must put down several names of employers you have applied to. You may be asked for further details at the Restart interview. If you have copies of any replies from employers, use these. If you can get a letter from an employer offering you a job interview, that should be particularly helpful.*

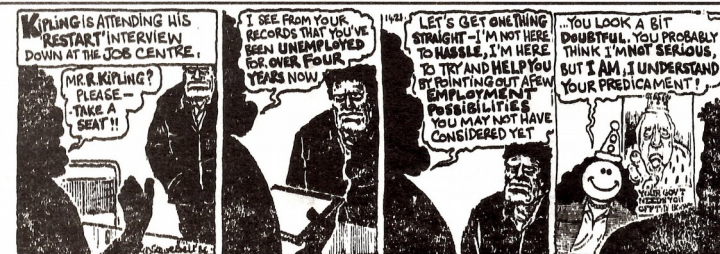
Q.26 Do you need help to get you back to work? (tick yes or no)

Answer: *Of course you have every right to tick no. However the interviewer is not likely to take kindly to a no answer - so unless you are prepared for a confrontation with a possible risk to your benefit, we would advise ticking yes.*

Q.27 What help do you need?

- * advice on what work to look for and where to look
- * help with job applications and interviews
- * training
- * advice on starting a small business
- * advice on benefits you may be able to get after you start work
- * advice on coping with health problems
- * some other help (please say below what you need)

This section is designed to trick or pressurise you into a government cheap labour scheme, a government course, a low paid job, or otherwise get you off the Unemployment Register - see next page!





Avoid The Restart Course - It's Crap! And That's Official

With Question 27 what happens -

If you tick *advice on what work to look for and where to look or help with job applications and interviews*? They will probably pressurise you to go onto the Job Club or onto the Restart Course. The Restart Course usually lasts for one week.

If you tick *training*? They will probably pressurise you to go on the Employment Training Scheme. This cheap labour scheme means working full-time for your normal benefit plus an extra £10 per week. The "training" given is often poor quality or non-existent. Due to claimants' resistance to the Scheme the government is over 100,000 short of its target number of participants.

If you tick *advice on starting a small business*? They will push you towards the Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

If you tick *advice on benefits you may be able to get after you start work*? They may try and push you into a low paid job.

So..

Unless you definitely want to go to the Job Club or the Restart Course we suggest you either tick *advice on starting a small business* or *some other help*. You can ask for information on the Enterprise Allowance Scheme without committing yourself to anything - but you should be prepared to tell the interviewer some ideas about your potential business.

If you tick *some other help* you can either ask for things you really want (whether or not they can provide them), or you can just ask for things you know they cannot give you. You could ask for money to attend interviews outside Lothian or info on College courses and grants, both of which they can sometimes provide.

If you have been unemployed for less than 2 years all the Restart options you could be offered - Job Club, Restart Courses, Employment Training, Enterprise Allowance - are voluntary. All you have to show is that you are actively seeking work.

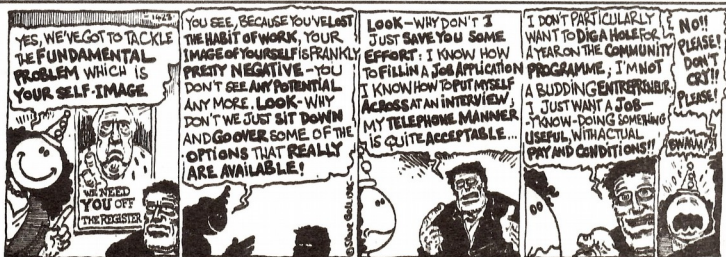
If you have been unemployed for over 2 years Job Club, Employment Training, and Enterprise Allowance are all still voluntary. But regulations introduced in December 1990 state that where people unemployed for 2 years or more are notified in writing of a specific Restart course but do not attend it in full, their income support will be reduced by 40% for a period not longer than the length of the Restart course (in Lothian Restart courses are usually for one week). You are still counted as unemployed for over 2 years even if you had periods off the register (of less than 57 days) in that time.

The regulations passed by Parliament do **not** state that every claimant unemployed for over 2 years **must** be notified of a Restart course. It is up to the Employment Service who they notify.

Employment Service internal instructions are that "exemptions from attendance will only relate to a small minority of claimants". However, Edinburgh Claimants Union were informed on 5/4/91 by Mr. Mackie, manager of High Riggs Unemployment Benefit Office, that everything depended on an individual's circumstances and that if someone was not going to benefit from a Restart Course then there would be no point in forcing them to attend.

So if you do not want to attend the Restart Course argue vigorously at the interview that this is not appropriate for you and explain why (eg you already have the knowledge and facilities to do good job applications). Put forward your alternative plans. They do not have to send everyone unemployed for over 2 years on these courses. If you are forced onto a Restart course contact us. Try and get the name of the interviewer.

It is important to resist this new repressive measure against claimants. It is yet another step towards doing away with benefits and forcing us to work for our dole money.



RESTART OR CLAIMS

- ADVICE, HELP AND SUPPORT

SNOOPERS

If you are harassed by snoopers (the fraud squad), please tell us. Don't let them into your home, don't speak to them alone, don't stop your claim or sign anything without first getting advice. If you know they are operating at a particular office let us know - we have driven them off the streets before and would like to do so again!

CLAIMANTS FIGHTBACK

Over the last few years the government has been introducing more and more measures to attack the unemployed. Restart, Availability for Work tests, compulsory YTS and removal of benefits for 16 and 17 year olds, cheap labour schemes like the Employment Training Scheme - to name just a few!

This is to drive unemployed people into cheap labour schemes and low paid jobs. This in turn is part of the government plan to weaken the power of workers and boost the power and profits of employers. At the same time the government is afraid of the unemployed's potential for rebellion and wants to subject them to 'work discipline'.

Meanwhile unemployment is rising rapidly. Even the government - using their own fiddled figures - predicts there will be between 2.4 and 3 million unemployed by the end of 1991. With this rapid rise in unemployment it is clear that few jobs are available. Yet these forms are being used to harass, and trick unemployed people into losing benefit entitled to them.

A recent development is the proposed introduction of the 'temporary work scheme'. This is a proposal to put those out of work for over 12 months in a very low paid 'job' for up to six months. Some politicians are proposing that benefit would be deducted from claimants who refused to take this up.

The Claimants Unions and Unemployed Workers Centres who produced this leaflet want unemployed and unwaged people to join together and resist these attacks - and to take action to gain a better deal for us all. Isolated, we can be harassed and intimidated. Together we can turn the tables and make snoopers and any other state officials who harass us scared of us instead!

At our centres and groups we are involved in a wide range of activities - resisting attacks on claimants, fighting other injustices like the poll tax, joining together with other claimants groups nationally and internationally, making links with workers at the Benefit offices and elsewhere, providing use of many facilities to claimants like computers, photographic dark room, creche, etc., etc..

Join us!

Contacts

Citizens Rights Office
43 Broughton Street
Edinburgh. Tel. 031 557 3366

Edinburgh Claimants Union
c/o Edinburgh Unemployed
Workers Centre
103 Broughton St. Edinburgh
031 557 0718

Midlothian Claimants Union
c/o Dalkeith Unemployed
Workers Centre
10 Woodburn Rd. Dalkeith
031 663 0400

West Lothian Rights Association
2B Greendykes Rd. Broxburn
Broxburn 853056

West Lothian Claimants Union
c/o The Regal Unemployed
Resource Centre
24-34 North Bridge St
Bathgate EH48 4PS
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